

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05

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R 162215Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 881

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN SECURITY FORCES DISCOVER ARMS CACHE

1. SUMMARY: SECURITY FORCES ANNOUNCED AUGUST 14 THE DESTRUCTION OF A SUBVERSIVE GROUP LINKED TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND CHRISTIAN LEFT. THE GROUP REPORTEDLY HAD CONDUCTED A NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL ROBBERIES AND COLLUDED WITH THE COMMUNISTS TO IMPLICATE THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES. THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY HAS DENIED STATEMENTS FROM THE FATHER OF THE STILL-MISSING LEADER OF THE GROUP THAT HIS SON RECEIVED ASYLUM THERE. THE SECURITY FORCES' AMAZING GOOD LUCK IN BREAKING A CASE WITH SO MANY TIMELY RAMIFICATIONS GIVES US PAUSE. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY FORCES ON AUGUST 14 ANNOUNCED THE DISCOVERY OF A CACHE OF ARMS AND MATERIEL IN SANTIAGO. NEWS PHOTOS SHOW THAT THE CACHE CONTAINED 8 SWEDISH SUBMACHINE GUNS, 18 MAGAZINES AND SOME 2,500 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION, A PISTOL, DISGUISES (INCLUDING A CARABINERO'S UNIFORM) AND FALSE DOCUMENTATION. REPORTEDLY THE LEADER (FELIPE) OF A GROUP KNOWN AS "RED SEPTEMBER" HAD LEFT THIS MATERIAL IN 8 BOXES LOCKED IN A ROOM OF HIS FATHER'S HOUSE SOME THREE MONTHS AGO. AT THAT TIME HE HAD SAID THAT HE WAS LEAVING FOR GERMANY.

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3. THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA) STATED

THAT THE RED SEPTEMBER GROUP WAS COMPOSED OF SPLINTER ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND CHRISTIAN LEFT WORKING WITH THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR). THEY CREDITED THE BAND WITH A NUMBER OF MAJOR ROBBERIES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, INCLUDING RECENT ONES. THEY SAID THAT THEY WERE IN THE PROCESS OF PICKING UP THE LAST THREE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WHEN THE LEADER, WHO USED THE ALIAS FELIPE, SOUGHT ASYLUM. THEY SPECULATED THAT THE BAND HAD PRODUCED FALSE DOCUMENTS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO "DISAPPEAR" -- THEREBY IMPLICATING THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD RECEIVE INQUIRIES ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCES FROM "INTERNATIONAL GROUPS." ACCORDING TO SECURITY FORCES, THE CAPTURED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION APPEARED OF RECENT MANUFACTURE, WHICH INDICATED THAT THEY HAD GOTTEN TO CHILE SINCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER. SECURITY FORCES SAID THAT THIS NEW EXAMPLE OF SUBVERSION IN COLLUSION WITH INTERNATIONAL GROUPS DEMONSTRATED THE CONTINUING NEED FOR EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES TO MAINTAIN DOMESTIC ORDER.

4. THE FATHER TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS SON HAD BEEN STUDYING PHOTO-ENGRAVING AND THAT HE HAD LEFT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO JOIN THE MARXIST-CHRISTIAN LEFT. THE FATHER ADDED THAT FELIPE "HAD MAINTAINED SOME SORT OF CONTACT WITH THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY," ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW ANY SPECIFICS. HE SAID THE SON HAD TELEPHONED HIM SEVERAL DAYS AGO TO SAY THAT HE HAD TAKEN ASYLUM AT THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY WITH A FEMALE COMPANION.

5. THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY HAS PUBLICLY DENIED IT HAS ANY ASYLEES.

6. COMMENT: THE SECURITY FORCES' FIND SEEMS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLY FORTUITIOUS. IN ONE SWOOP THEY: (A) SOLVE A NUMBER OF PERPLEXING, WELL-ORGANIZED AND GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL ROBBERIES; (B) ARE ABLE TO ESTABLISH LINKS FOR CRIMINAL AND POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTION AMONG THE EXTREMIST MIR, COMMUNISTS AND CHRISTIAN LEFT, SOMETHING NOT HITHERTO DEMONSTRATED; (C) SHOW THAT SUBVERSION IS STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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A PRESENT DANGER IN CHILE; (D) IMPLICATE THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY; (E) EXPLAIN AWAY MANY RECENT DISAPPEARANCES; (F) FIND A CARABINERO'S UNIFORM AND (G) TIE IN THE VENEZUELAN (WHO HAVE JUST RECEIVED EXPELLED LAWYERS JAIME CASTILLO AND EUGENIO VELASCO WITH OPEN ARMS.)

7. THE EMBASSY IS FAR FROM PERSUADED BY THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF EVENTS. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON ANY CORROBORATING EVIDENCE

WE RECEIVE ON THE VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE STORY.
POPPER

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NNN

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